

11

THE HEALTH OF HITCHIN

1969

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HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Members as at 31st December, 1969

Chairman of the Council

Councillor Mrs. B.F. Wearmouth

Chairman of the Housing and Public Health Committee

Councillor P.L. Sell

J.S. Ballantyne

R.S. Flatman

C.F. Burr

G.J. Graves

B.W. Davis

G.F. Hendry

M.B. Hunt

Medical Officer of Health

J.D. Hall, M.R.C.S., (Eng.), L.R.C.P. (Lond.), D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector

N. Holt, F.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector

H. Forrest, M.A.P.H.I.

P R E F A C E

Public Health Department,
Brand Street,
HITCHIN.

To the Chairman & Members of the Hitchin Urban District Council.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1969.

The population of Hitchin has again increased though by a much smaller margin than in 1968. The birth rate was higher than the previous year and also higher than the remainder of England and Wales and the county as a whole. One maternal death occurred and this was unavoidable.

The deaths of children under the age of one remained exactly the same as for 1968 and the infant mortality rate dropped, although still in excess of the remainder of England and Wales and the county.

The perinatal death rate remained the same as for 1968 as did the number of illegitimate births, but there was a very slight decrease in the number of stillbirths.

The total number of deaths from all causes decreased slightly from the previous year and the death rate itself was slightly lower than the rest of England and Wales, although rather higher than the remainder of the county. The commonest cause of death was again diseases of the heart and blood vessels with a fractional decrease in the number of deaths from cancer. No deaths occurred from tuberculosis.

There were no serious outbreaks of epidemic disease and the public health of Hitchin is most satisfactory.

I would like to express my thanks to all the public health and health and welfare staff in Hitchin Urban, including those concerned with administration, for their help and co-operation during the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

J. D. HALL,

Medical Officer of Health.

Divisional Health Office,
Bedford Road,
HITCHIN, Hertfordshire.

Telephone No: Hitchin 50411

SECTION "A"
NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

(a) GENERAL STATISTICS

Area in Acres	3,867
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population Mid-1969	27,410
Number of inhabited houses at 31st December 1969 (estimated)	9,311
Rateable Value	£1,760,971
Net Product of 1d. rate	£7,080

(b) PHYSICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The Registrar General's estimate of resident population for mid-1969 reveals an overall increase of 490. Natural increase of population i.e. excess of births over deaths for the year was 189.

HITCHIN VITAL STATISTICS 1969

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	Males	Females	TOTAL
Total	268	274	542
Legitimate	239	245	484
Illegitimate	29	29	58
Live Birth Rate (uncorrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	19.8
Live Brith Rate (corrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	18.8
Illegitimate live births percentage of total live births	-	-	11.0
<u>STILL-BIRTHS</u>			
Total	3	4	7
Rate of 1,000 live and still-births	-	-	13.0
Total live and still-births	271	278	549
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE:</u>			
Total	9	5	14
Legitimate	8	4	12
Illegitimate	1	1	2
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	-	-	26.0
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	-	25.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	-	34.0
Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	-	-	13.0
Early Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	-	-	13.0
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births)	-	-	26.0
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY, INCLUDING ABORTION:</u>			
Number of deaths	-	1	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	-	-	1.8
<u>TOTAL DEATHS</u>	178	175	353
Death Rate (uncorrected)	-	-	12.9
Death Rate (corrected)	-	-	11.2
Natural increase of population	-	-	189
Overall increase of population	-	-	490

CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1969

IN

General Register Office, Somerset House, Strand, W.C.2.

	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under		A G E IN Y E A R S										75 and over
				1 year	1- 5-	5- 15-	15- 25-	25- 35-	35- 45-	45- 55-	55- 65-					
B4 ENTERITIS AND OTHER DIARRHOEAL DISEASES	M F	1 -	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
B19(2) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, OESOPHAGUS	M F	1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-		
B19(3) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM STOMACH	M F	4 4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3		
B19(4) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM INTESTINE	M F	1 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
B19(6) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM, LUNG, BRONCHUS	M F	12 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	9		
B19(7) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM BREAST	M F	- 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1		
B19(8) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM UTERUS	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-		
B19(9) MALIGNANT NEOPLASM PROSTATE	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3		
B19(11) OTHER MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS	M F	9 9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4 1	1 2	1 3	4 3		
B20 BENIGN AND UNSPECI- FIED NEOPLASMS	M F	- 2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1		
B21 DIABETES MELLITUS	M F	- 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
B24 MENINGITIS	M F	1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-		
TOTAL CARRIED FORWARD	M F	34 28	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	6 3	3 9	14 7	10 8		

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 1 year	A G E I N Y E A R S											75 and over
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-				
TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD	M F	34 28	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	6 3	3 9	14 7	10 8		
B46(4) OTHER DISEASES OF NERVOUS SYSTEM ETC.	M F	- 3	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 2	- 1		
B26 CHRONIC RHEUMATIC HEART DISEASE	M F	3 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	1 -	- 1	1 -		
B27 HYPERTENSIVE DISEASE	M F	2 4	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- 1	1 -	1 2		
B28 ISCHAEMIC HEART DISEASE	M F	48 32	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	7 1	14 2	16 8	10 20	10 8		
B29 OTHER FORMS OF HEART DISEASE	M F	11 13	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 1	- -	- -	3 2	8 10		
B30 CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASE	M F	17 41	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	2 1	7 6	8 34	1 5		
B46(5) OTHER DISEASES OF CIRCULATORY SYSTEM	M F	3 3	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	1 -	1 3		
B31 INFLUENZA	M F	1 2	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- 1	- 1	1 -	- 1		
B32 PNEUMONIA	M F	14 17	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	1 2	2 2	3 2	8 15		
B33(1) BRONCHITIS AND EMPHYSEMA	M F	6 2	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	2 1	2 -	1 1		
B33(2) ASTHMA	M F	1 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- -		
B46(6) OTHER DISEASES OF RESPIRATORY SYSTEM	M F	3 -	- -	1 -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	1 -	- -		
B34 PEPTIC ULCER	M F	1 1	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	- -	1 -	- -	- 1		
TOTALS CARRIED FORWARD	M F	144 148	- -	2 -	- -	- -	- -	2 2	1 2	17 6	25 16	49 28	48 96			

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all	Under 4 weeks	4 Weeks and under		A G E I N Y E A R S										75 and over
				1 year	under 1 year	1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-			
TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD	M	144	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	1	17	25	49	48		
	F	148	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	6	16	28	96		
B36 INTESTINAL OBSTRUCTION AND HERNIA	M	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
B46(7) OTHER DISEASES OF DIGESTIVE SYSTEM	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-		
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
B38 NEPHRITIS AND NEPHROSIS	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1		
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
B39 HYPERPLASIA OF PROSTATE	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1		
B46(8) OTHER DISEASES, GENITO-URINARY SYSTEM	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1		
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
B41 OTHER COMPLICATIONS OF PREGNANCY, ETC.	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-		
B46(10) DISEASES OF MUSCULC-M SKELETAL SYSTEM.	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-		
B42 CONGENITAL ANOMALIES	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
B43 BIRTH INJURY, DIFFICULT LABOUR ETC.	M	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	F	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
B44 OTHER CAUSES OF PERINATAL MORTALITY	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
	F	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-		
B45 SYMPTOMS AND ILL DEFINED CONDITIONS	M	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	4		
	F	12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12		
BE47 MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	M	6	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	-	2	-	-		
	F	5	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	1		
TOTALS CARRIED FORWARD	M	169	4	3	-	-	-	2	3	2	17	29	54	55		
	F	172	3	1	-	1	2	1	2	2	6	17	29	110		

CAUSE OF DEATH	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 weeks	Weeks and Under 1 year	A G E I N Y E A R S										75 and over
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-			
TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD	M	169	4	3	-	-	2	3	2	17	29	54	55	110	
	F	172	3	1	-	1	1	2	2	6	17	29	29		
BE48 ALL OTHER ACCIDENTS	M	6	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	
	F	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	
BE49 SUICIDE AND SELF- INFLECTED INJURIES	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
BE50 ALL OTHER EXTERNAL CAUSES	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTAL ALL CAUSES	M	178	4	5	-	-	3	3	3	19	30	55	56	1	
	F	175	3	2	-	1	1	2	3	6	17	29	111	1	

POPULATION STATISTICS

	District 1969 HITCHIN U.D.C.	North Hertford- shire Division	Hertford- shire	England and Wales
Population	27,410	157,870	903,390	48,826,800
Live Births (Crude)	19.3	18.3	15.8	16.3
Live Births (Corrected)	18.8		14.9	16.3
Death Rate - All causes, Crude	12.9	8.3	9.1	11.9
Death Rate - All causes, Corrected	11.2		10.4	11.9
Infective and Parasitic Diseases- excluding Tuberculosis, but including Syphilis and other V.D.	.07	0.05		*
Tuberculosis:				
Respiratory	0.00	0.01	} - 0.03	0.01
Other Forms	0.00	0.00		0.01 *
All Forms	0.00	0.01		
Cancer: Lung and Bronchs.	0.62	0.53	} - 1.95	0.20
Other	1.46	1.37		1.90
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	0.11	0.06	1.32	*
Heart and Circulatory Diseases	6.47	4.07	2.17	*
Respiratory Diseases	1.71	0.91	1.27	-
Maternal Mortality	1.8	0.34	0.07	0.19
Infantile Mortality	26.0	18.0	13.6	18.0
Neo Natal Mortality	12.9	12.1	10.0	12.0
Early Neo Natal Mortality	12.9	10.3	9.0	10.0
Perinatal Mortality	26.0	20.2	20.0	23.0
Still-Births	13.0	9.9	10.9	13.0

* Not available.

DIVISIONAL VITAL STATISTICS 1969

In any discussion on vital statistics it should be remembered that the population of each separate district of North Hertfordshire represents a relatively small basis for comparative purposes. Population of the North Hertfordshire Division, however, which exceeds 150,000 may be considered sufficiently large for valid statistical deductions to be made, and for this purpose the table giving the overall picture of the vital statistics also includes similar statistics for the Division as a whole for comparison with each individual district.

Briefly, from a divisional point of view all the rates may be considered satisfactory. The infant mortality rate slightly exceeds the remainder of Hertfordshire but not England and Wales as a whole. The birth rate was higher than for the remainder of the county and the country, and the population of the Division increased during 1969 by 3,320, natural increase being 1,567. The continually increasing size of the Division, therefore, can be seen to be due to migration into the area rather than to any other factor.

	Males	Females	TOTAL
<u>LIVE BIRTHS:</u>			
Total	1,458	1,432	2,890
Legitimate	1,362	1,321	2,683
Illegitimate	96	111	207
Live Birth Rate (uncorrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	18.3
Live Birth Rate (corrected) per 1,000 population	-	-	-
Illegitimate live births percentage of total live births	-	-	7.2
<u>STILL-BIRTHS:</u>			
Total	16	13	29
Rate per 1,000 live and still-births	-	-	10.0
Total live and still-births	1,474	1,445	2,919
<u>DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE:</u>			
Total	27	25	52
Legitimate	25	21	46
Illegitimate	2	4	6
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	-	-	17.9
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	-	15.5
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	-	2.07
Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births).	-	-	12.1
Early Neo-Natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	-	-	10.3
Perinatal mortality rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births)	-	-	20.2
<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY, INCLUDING ABORTION:</u>			
Number of deaths	-	1	1
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	-	-	0.34
<u>TOTAL DEATHS:</u>	676	647	1,323
Death Rate (uncorrected)	-	-	8.4
Death Rate (corrected)	-	-	- *
Natural increase of population	-	-	1,567
Overall increase of population	-	-	3,320

SECTION "B"

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN HITCHIN URBAN DISTRICT

LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES - HITCHIN

CARE OF MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN - SECTION 22

Ante-Natal Booking Clinics

The completion of the attachment of midwives to groups of general practitioners made ante-natal booking sessions at some clinics unnecessary and ante-natal cases were seen at general practitioners' surgeries.

Attendance:

<u>Clinic</u>	No. of patients who attended <u>1969</u>	No. of attendances <u>1969</u>
Hitchin: G.P. Surgeries	293	1,497

Ante-Natal Instruction Classes

Ante-Natal instruction classes are important, not only in their teaching of relaxation but in the opportunity they afford for the general instruction of nursing mothers.

<u>Clinic</u>	No. of Attendances <u>1969</u>
Hitchin	458

Family Planning Clinic

Family planning in the division is provided by the Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire Branch of the Family Planning Association, and I am most grateful to the Branch Organising Secretary, Mrs. K. Arger, both for the provisions she has made and for this report.

Sessions:

Hitchin, Bedford Road - Tuesday afternoon (Double Doctor Session)
Wednesday evening (Double Doctor Session)
Thursday morning (Single Doctor Session)

The training of doctors and nurses in family planning methods is carried out in this clinic. An I.U.D. session is also included .

Family Planning Clinic contd.

Hitchin

Three hundred and eighteen new patients attended during the year and a total of 3,168 patients attended. The highest number of new patients was in the age group 20-24, with those aged 25-29 a close second.

187 doctor sessions were held for General Birth Control and 39 I.U.D. sessions. Oral contraception was the most used method.

Letchworth, Nevells Road, Health Centre. - Monday evening
(Single doctor session)

208 new patients attended during the year and a total of 1,383 patients attended.

The highest number of new patients came within the same age groups as the Hitchin and Stevenage clinics.

Stevenage Family Centre - Tuesday afternoon (Treble Doctor Session)
Wednesday morning (Treble Doctor Session)
Thursday evening (Treble Doctor Session)
Friday morning (Treble Doctor Session)

Doctors and nurses are also trained at the Stevenage Family Planning Clinic. No I.U.D. sessions are held.

None hundred and thirty one new patients attended during the year and a total of 8,168 patients attended.

Oral contraception was the most used method. Again the highest number of new patients was in the age group 20-24, with those aged 25-29 a close second.

532 doctor sessions were held for General Birth Control.

At all clinics cervical cytology smears were taken routinely, the numbers being

Hitchin	-	575	none positive
Stevenage	-	973	one positive
Letchworth	-	260	none positive

Infant Welfare Clinics

County Health Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin.	Monday & Friday 2-4 p.m. Wednesday 2-4 p.m.	Dr.D.M. Batty Health Visitor
Community Centre, Walsworth, Hitchin.	2nd. & 4th Wednesday 2-4 p.m.	Dr.H.I.L.Hall
Oakfield Estate, Hitchin(Mobile)	2nd Thursday 10 a.m.- 12 noon 4th Thursday 10 a.m. - 12 noon	Dr. D.M. Batty Health Visitor

Clinic	Children Born in 1969	Children Born in 1968	Children Born in 1964-67	No Attend- ances
Hitchin	464	493	540	8819

The attendance at these clinics has decreased by 1.8 per cent in 1969.

CHILD HEALTH ASSESSMENT UNIT

Children born in	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965 and over
Hitchin	4	23	12	5	33

A new Child Health Clinic was opened at Trotts Hill Infants School in Stevenage in July 1969.

Premature Infants

A premature infant is one which weighs $5\frac{1}{2}$ lb. or less at birth.

PREMATURE INFANTS BORN IN 1969

District	Born Alive			Stillbirths			No. removed to Hosp. after birth	Died under 28 days			No. who survived 28 days		
	At Home	In Hosp.	Total	At Home	In Hosp.	Total		At Home	In Hosp.	Total	Born at Home	Born in Hosp.	Total
Hitchin	1 twins 9	1 twins 38	49	0	4	4	0	0	5	5	10	34	44

The incidence of premature births again increased in 1969.

Day Nurseries - North Herts.

<u>Category</u>	No. on Register.
1. Children or widows or widowers	1
2. Children of unmarried mothers	12
3. Children of deserted wives or husbands	20
4. Children of parents in prison	Nil
5. Children of parents suffering from chronic illness or disablement	1
6. Temporary cases, for example, mother's illness or confinement	3
7. Children recommended by doctor or health visitor for temporary help	2
8. Children of parents coming within the "Essential Services" categories; for example, teachers and nurses (Local Committee Members' approval required)	2
9. Children living in bad housing conditions	Nil
10. Children of families where there was a risk of break-up in family	Nil

The number of children on the register of the day nursery as at 31st December 1969 was 41.

MIDWIFERY - SECTION 23

Ante Natal Instruction classes continue to be held in all the clinics but the actual ante-natal care and supervision is provided either in the G.P.'s surgery or in the home.

The development of the domiciliary midwifery service to include hospital deliveries has not advanced during the year.

Guthrie Testing for Phenylketonuria.

From the 1st October 1969 the laboratory work involved in screening infants born in this area for phenylketonuria by the Guthrie Test was taken over by the Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. The Guthrie blood test has replaced phenistix testing, and the midwives are now responsible for collection of blood samples.

During the year 26 pupil midwives were placed with the 7 training midwives in the Division.

The County Council's policy, with the decline in birth rate and of domiciliary confinements, to appoint district nurse/midwives continued during 1969.

All midwives are authorised to use their private motor cars on official business and the County Council, in common with other local authorities, operate an assisted car-purchase scheme for staff classified as "essential users."

DOMICILIARY MIDWIFERY - HITCHIN

Ante-Natal visits to Expectant Mothers	2,691
Home Conditions Reports for Hospitals	208
Ante-Natal Session - General Practitioner	204
Deliveries - Home	209
Hospital Deliveries	353
Total - Live and Stillbirths	549
Early Hospital Discharge - 48 hours	10

HEALTH VISITING - SECTION 24 - HITCHIN

Four health visitors were employed during 1969 with the assistance of two State Registered Nurses who attended school and infant welfare clinic sessions.

Health Visiting

Child Health	Visits	5,823
Elderly	"	250
Others	"	418
School Inspection	Sessions	168
Maternity & Child Health	"	369

The Health Visitors continued to give talks on Health Education illustrated by films and film strips.

HOME NURSING - SECTION 25 - HITCHIN

The staff of the home nursing service in the division at 31st December 1969, consisted of two full-time district nurses and two part-time district nurses; four full-time district nurse/midwives and one part-time district nurse/midwife. The staff who are able to drive cars are either authorised to use their own vehicles on official business, or have been provided with county-owned motor vehicles.

The following are statistics relating to the work of the home nurses in 1969. It will be seen that they made 12,601 visits to 345 patients; 80 per cent of the patients nursed were aged 65 or over and they were visited on 10,830 occasions; 86 per cent of all visits, therefore, were made to this age group.

HOME NURSING

<u>Classification</u>	<u>No. of cases attended</u>	<u>No. of visits made</u>
Medical	235	8604
Surgical	102	3967
Tuberculosis	-	-
Others	8	30
TOTAL	345	12601
Patients included above who were aged 65 or over	278	10830
Children included above who were under 5 or less	15	25

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION - SECTION 26 - NORTH HERTS.

In view of the introduction of the use of the computer no details of vaccination and immunisation figures are included in this report.

It is of interest to note, however, that in the first completed year of measles vaccination only 5.6 per cent of the population have required to be vaccinated.

AMBULANCE SERVICE - SECTION 27 - NORTH HERTS.

Number of patients conveyed	66,783
Number of Journeys	30,890
Total Mileage	441,483

Details of Journeys

Accidents	1,752
Sudden Illness	704
Removals	63,558
Maternity	769

The divisional area is served by the County Ambulance Station at St. George's Way, Stevenage. The Area Supervisor is Mr. J. Sweetmand, who has kindly supplied the above statistics.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS: CARE AND AFTER-CARE -SECTION 28

The Medical Loan Service continues to be delegated to the British Red Cross Society and St. John's Ambulance and these organisations play a large part in providing equipment and aids to the ill and handicapped at home. For this voluntary service we should like to express our thanks.

CHEST CLINIC

Health Visiting:

Tuberculosis Households - Visits	321
B.C.G. Follow-up - Visits	55
Contacts - Visits	205
Non-Tuberculosis - Visits	98

Now Cases:

Immigrants	5
Others	25
Contacts of Now Cases	181
Heaf Negative	84
B.C.G. Vaccination	77

The figures reveal no significant change in incidence of tuberculosis during 1969.

VENEREAL DISEASES - NORTH HERTS.

SPECIAL CLINIC	Totals all Venereal Conditions	Number of New Cases in 1969			Other Venereal Conditions
		Syphilis		Gonorrhoea	
		Primary & Secondary	Other		
Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge	43	Nil	Nil	5	38
Lister Hospital, Hitchin	233	1	4	48	180
TOTAL	276	1	4	53	218

All venereal conditions increased by 11 per cent in 1969.

It should be noted that a 13 per cent increase over the previous year was reported in 1968 and 1969 reveals an additional increase of 11 per cent. If to those local statistics the unknown number of cases attending Special Clinics elsewhere is added, the situation is not one which should be viewed with complacency. The increase in V.D. in young people is the responsibility of the whole community and its remedy is not wholly within the field of medicine.

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY - NORTH HERTS

CLINICS	No. 1st Attendances	% Pop. at risk attending	Negative		Positive		Unsatisfactory Specimens		Inflammatory Changes		Trichomonas Vaginalis		Monilia		Suspicious		Cell Irregularities	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
HITCHIN	336	i) 3 ii) 4	297	88.4	-	-	4	1.19	115	34.2	20	5.95	5	1.48	-	-	-	-
LETCHWORTH	337	i) 3 ii) 3	173	51.33	-	-	-	-	41	12.16	9	2.67	1	0.29	-	-	-	-
STEVENAGE	621	i) 8 ii) 11	548	88.24	-	-	2	0.32	137	22.06	14	2.25	10	1.61	-	-	-	-
ROYSTON	133	i) 0.53 ii) 2	122	91.7	-	-	1	0.75	105	78.9	10	7.5	-	-	-	-	-	-

CYTOLOGY CLINIC

"WELL WOMAN" CLINIC - JANUARY 1969

Hitchin	-	Every Wednesday a.m.
Letchworth	-	1st and 3rd Tuesdays a.m.
Stevenage	-	Thursday a.m. and Friday p.m.
Royston	-	Every third Wednesday in the month a.m.

In 1969 attendances at the Cytology Clinics showed a slight increase at Letchworth but were lower at Stevenage and Hitchin than in 1968. The Royston clinic, started in September 1968 continued satisfactorily although attendances did not warrant holding an extra session. This continues to give cause for concern and perhaps a publicity campaign during the coming year would renew public interest in these clinics.

From a total of 1,427 no positives were discovered.

Cervical Cytology contd.

- (i) Aged 20 and over
- (ii) Aged 30 and over

Population At Risk Women (Sample Census 1966 - estimated error 1.6 per cent deficient).

Baldock U.D.	(i) 2,080	Royston U.D.	(i) 2,260
	(ii) 1,740		(ii) 1,860
Hitchin U.D.	(i) 9,540	Stevenage U.D.	(i) 16,200
	(ii) 7,900		(ii) 12,350
Letchworth U.D.	(i) 9,480	Hitchin R.D.	(i) 8,560
	(ii) 7,950		(ii) 7,200
TOTAL AT RISK		(i) 48,120	
		(ii) 39,000	

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 - Section 47

This section of the Act is concerned with the compulsory removal of persons in need of care from their homes on a Court Order, or in emergency on an Order signed by two medical practitioners and a Justice of the Peace. Such a person may be removed to a county home or hospital provided that all sections of the Act are satisfied.

Such action was not necessary during 1969.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, SECTIONS 21 - 36

During 1969 the shortage of geriatric beds at Lister Hospital continued to cause difficulties in the admission of patients from County Council Old People's Homes despite the utmost help and co-operation from Dr.C. Firth, Consultant Geriatrician.

The heavy demand for residential accommodation continued - the waiting list being nine men and forty-eight women. The position will not be eased by Government restrictions on new buildings and the situation has worsened.

BLIND WELFARE - NORTH HERTS

The number of blind persons on the register at 31st December 1969 was 240 and of partially sighted 117.

Patients were visited at varying intervals throughout the year according to their separate needs. Lessons were given in typewriting, Braille and Moon, and handicraft lessons. Applications were made for wireless, talking books, holidays and grants, and orders were made for R.N.I.B. apparatus. Other associations, etc., were contacted where necessary. Several outings to the seaside and country were arranged.

MENTAL HEALTH ACT, 1969 - SECTIONS 25, 26 and 29

During 1969, 83 patients were admitted to mental hospitals on Compulsory Orders and 22 were admitted on an informal basis.

The Social Workers dealt with 549 mental health cases during 1969.

TRAINING CENTRES

Junior Training Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin

Special Care Unit	12
General Unit	43
Nursery	<u>14</u>
TOTAL	<u>69</u>

Adult Training Centre, Leyden Road, Stevenage.

Trainees on roll 1st January 1969	43
Trainees on roll 31st December 1969	61
10 Males	} joined the Centre during 1969
16 Females	
1 Male	} left the Centre during 1969.
7 Females	

A hairdressing salon was opened at the training centre during 1969 with great success.

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE - SECTION 29 - NORTH HERTS

Number of Home Helps employed at 31.12.69	75
Number of Good Neighbours employed at 31.12.69	14

Mrs. J. Williams commenced August 1969 as full-time Clerk to the Home Help Service and Mrs. J. Hessey became a part-time Clerk in the Service, working 20 hours per week.

Night Sitter Service

Approval was given by the Social Welfare Sub-Committee on 8th September 1969 for Night Sitters to be paid at the same rate as home helps, (at present 5/5³/₄d. per hour) for a maximum of 4 nights per week and the householders to receive a maximum of 2 nights per week unless there are special circumstances.

This is a much more realistic rate of pay than the former 15/- per night and it has enabled a register of Night Sitters to be set up in the division, who are available at 24 hours notice. The Service has been used twice and one case is continuing in Stevenage at the present time.

Domestic Help Service contd.

GROUPS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE

	<u>No. of Cases</u>	<u>No. of hours given</u>
1. Maternity (including expectant mothers)	64	1,489
2. Chronic sick:		
(a) Aged 65 plus	468 }	50,034
(b) Aged under 65 and T.B.	35 }	
3. Others:	103	7,000
Including:		
(a) Mental Health		
(b) Blind		
(c) Miscellaneous		
Acute cases		
Accidents		
TOTAL	670	58,523

69 per cent cases in 1969 were over 65 and 85 per cent total hours was given to this age group. 9 per cent cases were maternity absorbing only 2 per cent total hours.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICE - NORTH HERTS.

The school health service has undergone a certain amount of streamlining, and a selective medical system has now been introduced and satisfactorily established in this division. This system has not in any way reduced the scale of the school health service but channelled it into dealing in a different way with problems as they arise.

It is now possible for the headteachers to have specific consultation sessions with their school medical officer apart from routine medical examination periods. This extension of the service should be encouraged since it will promote a closer understanding of each others problems between the schools and the school health service. These arrangements have also greatly facilitated the discussion of problems as they arise.

School Health Service contd.

Dr. F. E. Woodthorpe - School Medical Officer reports:

1. Cleanliness: On the whole I found the standard of cleanliness quite high, there were the odd few children who appeared in rather grey underclothes.
2. Tooth: I have seen only few cases of dental caries, and most of those seem to be having dental treatment.
3. Skin: Seen very few plantar warts, the Health Visitors seem to deal with this problem very adequately. There are plenty of cases of eczema of hands, face, elbows, knees and I have seen about two cases of ichthyosis.
4. Warts: These seem to be quite common on the hands and more frequently in the boys, and also seem to occur in all age groups.
5. Eyes: Defects of vision seem to be very common between the ages of 9 - 13 years. Have picked up several cases of colour blindness again more so in the boys.
6. Hearing: Audiology clinics and general ear testing proves quite invaluable in school health work.
7. Nose & Throat: Nasal catarrh seems to be very common. There are also plenty of enlarged tonsils to be seen and mouth breathers around the junior schools.
8. Development: There seems to be a lot of overweight children. The breakfasts of the juniors seems to be starchy cereals. The boys and girls of the Grammar and Secondary schools all seem on the whole to be tall and of big build.
9. Feet: Have seen very few corns or callosities.
10. Stability: With very few exceptions the children seem to be very happy at school, and a great many seem to prefer school to being at home. With mothers and fathers out at work home seems to be a shelter for eating and sleeping. The great majority of the teenagers seem to have very little in the way of hobbies at home, but this may be due to the pressure of school work for future examinations.
11. Abdomen: Except for the cases of undescended testes in the boys I have not found any abnormal abdomens. I have also been rather amazed that the incidence of hernia has been so uncommon.

School Health Service contd.

Dr. A. Dorola - School Medical Officer reports:

1. Cleanliness: I find a high standard of personal hygiene among the children of 5 - 6 years old, with a few exceptions (children belonging to problem families).
2. Infestation: I have not seen any children with lice infestation. This is probably due to the thorough work of health visitors who inspect and exclude the children from school and see that treatment is carried out.
3. Tooth: High incidence of dental caries. Quite good attendance at dental clinics. It appears that fluoride is indicated. In cases of multiple caries, I advise parents to buy fluoride at local chemists (1 drop daily in a glass of water). This seems to have a beneficial effect.
4. Skin: Infantile eczema as in previous years. I have seen three cases of impetigo in the same school, but all were under treatment. One case of scabies (on hands and chest). Warts and athlete's foot not infrequent. Occasional plantar warts.
5. Speech: Quite a number of school entrants with speech defects improve after the first school term and after about a year speech becomes normal. The true dyslalia case is not common.
6. Lymph Glands: I noticed palpable cervical lymph glands among school children. This was confined to certain schools only. I think it would be interesting to follow the pattern of distribution and cause of this seasonal (autumn and winter), symptomless, enlargement of cervical lymph glands.
7. Lungs: I came across about 5 cases of cystic fibrosis, aged from 5 - 15, all being under constant medical supervision and treatment, and making satisfactory school progress.
8. Hernia: Low incidence of hernia.
9. Orthopaedic: I have seen one case of typical "kissing patellæ" condition in a 5 year old girl. She attends surgical follow up clinic. ? awaiting operation at the age of 6/7 (Roebuck Infants).

One bilateral Pott's disease in a boy of 5 years old under treatment. Wears bilateral calipers and is making satisfactory progress.

I have seen at least 2 children with spina bifida (all surgically treated) attending normal school.

School Health Service contd.

Dr. A. Derola's report:

10. Posture: Rare incidence of mal posture among 5 year olds.
11. I have noticed a high incidence of nocturnal enuresis. This causes great anxiety to parents and children.
12. A great number of overweight children among juniors and seniors mainly due to faulty diet and some due to compulsive eating.

TABLE I - HITCHIN

Inspection of School Children 1969:

Entrants	292
First year Selective	47
Last year Consultative	399
Number of special inspections	148
Number of re-inspections	364

Physical condition of Pupils inspected:
Satisfactory 1,150

TABLE II - HITCHIN

B.C.G. Vaccination - 11, 12 and 13 years and older school children:

Number of children offered testing and vaccination if necessary	511
Number of acceptances	428
Percentage of acceptances	83.6%

Pre-Vaccination Tuberculin Test:

Number tested	402
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Result of Test:

Number positive	14
Number negative	388
Number not ascertained	-
Percentage positive	3.4%
Percentage negative	96.5%
Number vaccinated	387

Note: The percentage of acceptances is most satisfactory; no adverse reactions to B.C.G. vaccinations were reported during the year.

TABLE III - NORTH HERTS

Audiometry

Number tested 380
 Number with no loss 140

DETAILS OF EYE TESTING PROGRAMME 1969

Ago Group	No.Schools ontorod	No.Sossions	No.Tested	Dofocts Found		No.referred to school ophthalmic clinic
Entrants	47	85	2,205	251	11.3%	
8 - 11 yrs.	24	121 - OS -	7,070	246	3.4%	
12 - 16 yrs.	25	131	7,330	765	10.4%	
TOTALS	96	337	16,605	1262	7.6%	.278

It will be soon from the above statistics that of the 16,605 children tested, 7.6% were found to have defects.

The Consultant Paediatrician for the area, Dr. C.G. Fagg, is always available for consultation and I am indebted to him for his help during the year.

I would also acknowledge the help and co-operation from Dr.C. Firth - Consultant Geriatrician and Dr. B. Mallett - Consultant Psychiatrist.

Drs. Roper and Gabriel have played a large part in the School Health Service and I am grateful to them also.

HOSPITAL SERVICES

The hospital services for the area are administered by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board with the Luton and Hitchin Hospital Management Committee. Addonbrooke's Hospital is administered by the United Cambridge Hospitals.

General Hospital Services

North Hertfordshire Hospital, Hitchin.
Lister Hospital, Hitchin.
Addonbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

- 25 -

Mental Hospital

Fairfield Hospital, Stotfold, Hitchin.

Maternity Hospital Services

North Hertfordshire Maternity Unit, Hitchin.

Chost Clinic

Lister Hospital, Hitchin.

Laboratory Services

Dr. A.T. Willis, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Luton & Dunstable Hospital, Lowsoy Road, Luton, Beds.

Dr. G.R.E. Maylor, Director, Public Health Laboratory, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1969

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS AND NOTICES SERVED
DURING THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st, 1969

NATURE OF VISIT OR INSPECTION

GENERAL SANITATION

Drainage	441
Pet shops	9
Caravan sites and gypsies	69
Factories	55
Refuse and salvage collection	402
Refuse disposal	87
Rats and mice	74
Smoke observations	2
Boiler plants	17
Noise	34
Shops, offices, etc.	582
Petroleum installations	102
Swimming pools	22
Water supply	9
Stables and piggeries.. .. .	5
Miscellaneous	1,284

HOUSING

Under Public Health Acts:

Number of houses inspected.. .. .	107
Visits paid to houses.. .. .	246

Under Housing Acts:

Number of houses inspected and recorded	3
Visits paid to houses.. .. .	94

Overcrowding:

Number of houses inspected.. .. .	2
Visits paid to houses.. .. .	2

Houses in Multiple Occupation:

Number of houses inspected.. .. .	51
Visits paid to houses.. .. .	913

cont'd....

HOUSING (cont'd.)

Improvement Grants:

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	34
Visits paid to houses	..	..	..	480

Improvement Areas:

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	9
Visits paid to houses	..	..	..	13

Certificates of Disrepair:

Number of houses inspected	..	..	..	1
Visits paid to houses	..	..	..	1

Verminous Premises:

Visits paid to houses	3
-----------------------	----	----	----	---

Notices served:

Number of informal notices served	..	..	37
Number of informal notices complied with			22
Number of statutory notices served	..	..	22
Number of statutory notices complied with			18

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE

Enquiries in case of infectious disease	11
Enquiries in case of food poisoning	1
Other visits re food poisoning enquiries	4

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Inspection of meat:

Visits to shops	5
-----------------	----	----	----	----	---

Food Inspection:

Visits to shops and stalls	72
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Visits to:

Butchers	123
Fishmongers and poulterers	7	
Fish friers	25	
Food preparing premises	68	
Grocers	..	..	..	..	154
Greengrocers and fruiterers	..	..	..	..	17
Dairies and milkshops	..	..	..	..	7

cont'd.....

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION (cont'd.)

Visits to:

Ice-cream stores	..	..	..	..	..	..	85
Bakehouses ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13
Markets ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	168
Restaurants..	..	..	..	..	..	..	75
School and factory canteens, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	22
Street vendors and hawkers' carts	..	..	..	..	..	..	104
Licensed premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Confectioners ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42

Visits in connection with sampling (bacteriological):

Milk ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Ice-cream ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT TO HOUSES UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF
THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS

Structure:

Roofs repaired ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Chimney stacks pointed or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Flashings repaired or replaced ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Eavesgutters repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Rainwater pipes repaired or renewed	..	..	..	..	..	..	14
Roof timbers repaired or replaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Walls pointed or repaired ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Windows repaired ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Windows provided or replaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
New window sashcords provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Doors replaced (external) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Doors provided or replaced (internal)	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Door fasteners repaired or replaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Yard surfaces relaid or repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Ceilings where plaster, etc. repaired or replaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	27
Rooms where wall cleansed ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Floors relaid or repaired ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19
Skirting boards repaired or replaced..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
New firegrates provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Chimney flues repaired	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Staircases repaired ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Rooms where dampness remedied	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
New sinks provided	..	..	..	..	..	..	10

cont'd.....

IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT TO HOUSES UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF
THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS.

Structure: (cont'd.)

Trapped sink waste pipes provided	..	..	..	10
New washbasins provided	..	..	..	20
Trapped washbasin wastepipes provided	..	..	..	20
New baths provided	..	..	..	20
Trapped bath waste pipes provided	..	..	..	20
Rooms where wallplaster, etc., repaired or replaced	..	..	..	25
Rooms decorated	..	..	..	25
Hot water systems provided	..	..	..	11
Ventilated food store provided	..	..	..	9

Drainage:

New drains constructed	..	..	..	11
Drains repaired	..	..	..	6
Drains cleansed	..	..	..	26
Inspection chambers provided	..	..	..	11
Inspection chamber covers provided	..	..	..	10
Self-cleansing gullies provided	..	..	..	7
Soil pipes provided or repaired	..	..	..	4

Waterclosets:

New basins fixed	..	..	..	11
W.Cs decorated	..	..	..	7
Cisterns repaired or renewed	6

Miscellaneous:

Accumulations of refuse removed	25
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SECTION "C"

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1.

(i) Water

Hitchin obtains its water from piped supplies controlled by the Lee Valley Water Company. Water is obtained from four wells: (1) Temple End, Charlton, (2) Wellhead, (3) Oughton Head, and (4) Offley Bottom. The latter two are situated in the rural district just outside the urban boundary. An adequate supply was maintained from the above sources and no restrictions were necessary during the year. The water is satisfactory in quality. Two hundred and fifty six bacteriological and seven chemical samples of the water supplied in the district were taken during the year and examined at the Company's own laboratory. All the samples were found to be satisfactory. The water from the wells is hard and, therefore, no trouble is experienced due to plumbo-solvency. No fluoridation is carried out to the water supplies.

The number of dwelling houses supplied with water from public mains direct into the house is 9,296 serving approximately 27,365 persons.

In the case of fifteen houses the water supply is provided in an outbuilding.

(ii) Drainage and Sewerage

Extensions to the soil and storm water sewers were carried out during the year mainly in the Westmill and Blackhorse Lane areas.

2. Rivers and Streams

No action required by this department.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation

Only a few outlying premises are provided with dry closets. The whole of the district is provided with waterclosets connected to the Council's sewers, with the exception of a few houses which discharge to cesspools.

(ii) Public Cleansing - Refuse Collection and Disposal

It is anticipated that the total volume of refuse to be collected in 1990 will be double that of 1970, which in turn, was double that of 1950. It is, therefore, certain that the storage capacity for house refuse will have to be gradually increased over the coming years. Paper accounts for approximately two thirds by volume of domestic refuse and, therefore, the best hope for reducing the amount of refuse to be disposed of is the separation and salvaging of paper. It is, therefore, pleasing to record that the collection of wastepaper in 1969 reached a total of 438 tons, an increase of 81 tons over 1968.

In accordance with the Civic Amenities Act, 1967, the Council have designated the Refuse Tip, Wallace Way, as the place where residents may deposit refuse, other than business refuse, free of charge.

3. (iii) Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Two hundred and eighty premises received a general inspection during the year and five hundred and eighty two visits were made.

Works carried out during 1969 were:

Cleanliness improved	4
Thermometers provided	35
Means of lighting provided or improved	4
Floors and steps improved.. .. .	6
First aid boxes provided	30
Washing facilities improved	2
Hot and cold water provided	11
Sanitary conveniences improved.. .. .	4
Soap and towel provided	2
Abstract of Act provided	29
Ventilation improved.. .. .	3
Accommodation for clothing provided.. .. .	1
Machinery guarded	2
Handrails provided	4

Analysis of persons employed in registered premises
by workplace

Class of Workplace	No. of Persons Employed
Offices	1,561
Retail Shops	1,184
Wholesale Dept. Warehouses	112
Catering Establishments	205
Canteens	20
Fuel Storage Depots	2
Total	3,084
Total Males	1,191
Total Females	1,893

Accidents

Under the provisions of Section 48 of the Act three accidents were reported and all were investigated.

(iv) Caravans

At 31st December, 1969, seven licences had been granted authorising the use of land as sites for caravans. The number of caravans covered by the licences is 111.

(v) Clean Air

During the year three notifications of the installation of new boiler furnaces were received. Three applications were made and approved under Section 6 of the Clean Air Act, 1968. Nuisances arising from bonfires either by factories burning trade waste or householders burning garden refuse gave rise to a number of complaints. In each of these complaints an approach to the offenders was sufficient to secure an abatement of the nuisance. The ever ~~increasing~~ cost of running factories and shops often induces occupiers to burn their refuse on site as the cheapest means of disposing of the waste accruing from the business. Constant supervision of places prone to burn refuse is carried out and efforts made to persuade occupiers to install suitable incinerators or dispose of their refuse through the refuse collection services.

(vi) Swimming Baths

There are three swimming baths in the district:

- (a) a public open-air swimming bath maintained by the Council, comprising a main and children's pool;
- (b) a private open-air swimming bath at the Girls' Grammar School;
- (c) a parent/teacher association pool at Purwell Primary School.

Fifty-six samples of water in the two pools at the Council's baths were taken and all were reported upon as satisfactory.

The two pools at the public baths are filled from a main water supply. The water is continuously circulated and purified by pressure sand filtration and chlorination. The filtration plant has a turnover period of about four hours.

The County Health Department took samples of the water in the Girls' Grammar School bath and Purwell Primary School pool during the year.

(vii) Inspection of Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses registered in Hitchin.

(viii) Noise abatement

Eleven complaints alleging noise nuisance were received during the year. These covered various premises such as a gas reform plant, (noise due to a design fault which was subsequently remedied), factories working at night and leaving doors open during hot weather and railway diesel engines left to run all night or started at a very early hour because of cold weather. None of the complaints received required formal action. An approach to the occupier of the premises concerned led either to an abatement of the nuisance or to steps being taken to reduce the noise.

Ice cream vendors were the chief offenders in the sounding of bells or musical jingles etc., outside of the hours permitted by law. Warnings to offenders result in an immediate improvement, but changing staff on these mobile vans inevitably leads to further offences. In many cases the persons hiring out these vehicles could give instructions to all staff etc., regarding the permissible hours of use of bells, etc.

SECTION "D"

HOUSING

1. Unfit Houses

During the year three houses were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925.

Three houses were demolished in 1969, two in pursuance of demolition orders and one a closing order.

2. Houses in Multiple Occupation

Most immigrants are housed either in the older type of large house, let off in rooms, or share houses with other immigrant families.

The general policy of the Council is to limit the number of individuals in these houses by making Directions under Section 19 Housing Act, 1961.

Directions are made on particular houses because it is considered that they are only suitable for occupation by a limited number of individuals, due to lack of facilities. Directions made totalled 103 at the end of the year.

During the year the Council rehoused 22 families from the foregoing type of house.

3. Improvement Grants

(1)	Number of discretionary improvement grants made	3
(2)	Number in (1) above made to owner/occupier	1
(3)	Number of houses where discretionary improvement works completed	1
(4)	Number of standard improvement grants made	31
(5)	Number in (4) above made to owner/occupiers	26
(6)	Number of houses where standard improvement grant works completed	35

SECTION 'E'

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

(a) Milk Supply

In accordance with the Milk and Dairies Regulations three premises are registered as dairies. One of the dairies carried out the pasteurising and bottling of milk using the H.T.S.T. method of pasteurisation. The two remaining dairies are used as milk stores. There are also four distributors of milk registered under the Regulations. Inspections of the foregoing dairies were made during the year.

During the year 26 samples of milk were taken and submitted to bacteriological examinations with the following results, the majority being bottled milk taken in course of delivery to the consumer.

No. of Samples	Class of Milk	Methylene Blue Test		Phosphatase Test		Percentage Satisfactory.
		Satisfied.	Failed.	Satisfied.	Failed.	
16	Pasteurised	16	-	16	-	100%
		Turbidity Test				
		Satisfied.	Failed.			
10	Sterilised	10	-			100%

(b) Meat and Foods

There are no slaughterhouses in the district licensed by the Council nor are there any poultry processing premises in the area.

Numerous visits were made to butchers' shops, food shops and other food-preparing premises where the following quantities of foodstuffs were found to be unsound and unfit for food, and were voluntarily surrendered by the owners and disposed of so as not to be used for human consumption.

Meat from Butchers' Shops

Beef	106 lb.
Pork	70 lb.

General

Miscellaneous tinned and packed foods	1,185 lb.
Miscellaneous tinned meats ..	225 lb.
Fruit	7,728 lb.
Chickens	157 lb.

Total	9,471 lb. =	Tons	Cwts.	Qrs.	lb.
		4	4	2	7

(c) Food Complaints

During the year the department received twenty-eight complaints in respect of various foodstuffs. In all cases investigations were carried out to determine the source of and ascertain the reasons for the complaints and to ensure that all necessary steps were taken by the firms concerned to prevent any further repetition.

The following table gives details of some of the complaints. It is the department's policy in every case where contraries are found in food etc., to inform the complainant of the action taken.

No.	Commodity	Nature of the complaint
1.	Raspberry tart.	Paper wire closure in tart.
2.	Bottle of milk.	Insect in milk.
3.	Bottle of milk.	Metal object in milk.
4.	Wrapped sliced loaf.	Dirt on crust of loaf.
5.	Luncheon meat.	Black specks in meat.
6.	Chocolate eclairs.	Ants in eclairs.
7.	Harvest apple pie.	Mouldy.
8.	Rock bun.	Piece of cardboard in bun.
10.	Round of buns.	Mouldy.
11.	Meringue.	Metal object in meringue.
12.	Cooked potato chips.	Wire in chips.
13.	Chocolate cake.	Stale.

(d) Ice-Cream

Premises are registered under the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, as follows:-

3 premises - for the manufacture, storage and sale of ice-cream.

75 premises - for storage and sale of ice-cream.

Frequent visits were made to the foregoing premises to enforce the provisions of the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1959, and for the purpose of sampling. Regarding sampling 31 samples of ice-cream and 6 of "soft" ice-cream were taken.

Ice-Cream

Grade 1	..	..	..	18	satisfactory.
Grade 2	..	..	..	2	satisfactory.
Grade 3	..	..	..	5	unsatisfactory.
Grade 4	..	..	..	6	unsatisfactory.

"Soft" Ice-Cream

Grade 1	..	..	..	2	satisfactory.
Grade 3	..	..	..	1	unsatisfactory.
Grade 4	..	..	..	3	unsatisfactory.

(e) Food Hygiene

The following table gives details of food premises in the area:

Types of Premises	No. of Premises	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16 F.H. Regs. 1960	No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 applies F.H. Regs. 1960	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19 F.H. Regs. 1960
Bakehouses	7	7	7	7
Butchers	18	18	18	18
Catering	53	53	53	53
Confectioners	10	10	10	10
Fishmongers & Poulterers	7	7	7	7
Fried Fish	8	8	8	8
Food Factories	4	4	4	4
Greengrocers	16	16	16	16
Grocers	41	41	41	41
Licensed Premises	46	46	46	46
Off Licences	8	8	8	8
Supermarkets	7	7	7	7
Confectioners (sweets)	27	27	24	24
	252	252	249	249

cont'd.

(e) Food Hygiene (cont'd.)

The following premises are registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

Premises	No.	Registered
Butchers	15	for the preparation or manufacture of
Food factories	1	sausages, or potted, pickled, pressed
Grocers	1	or preserved food.
Butchers	1	for the pickling of meat.
Supermarkets	1	for the pickling of meat.
Fishmongers	1	for the preservation of fish.
Grocers	2	for the cooking of ham.
Supermarkets	1	for the cooking of ham.
Grocers	2	for the roasting of chickens.
Fishmonger	1	for the roasting of chickens.
General Premises	2	for the manufacture, storage and
Supermarkets	1	sale of ice-cream.
Grocers	25	storage and sale of ice-cream.
Greengrocers	5	storage and sale of ice-cream.
Confectioners (sweets)	16	storage and sale of ice-cream.
General premises	26	storage and sale of ice-cream.
Supermarkets	3	storage and sale of ice-cream.

The following improvements were carried out during the year to premises used for preparation, sale, etc., of food:

Washing facilities:

Number of new wash-hand basins provided	7
defective wash-hand basins renewed	2
new glazed sinks provided	3
fitments provided with running hot and cold water	5
trapped waste pipes provided	5
new draining boards provided	2

Structural work

Number of rooms where floor repaired or renewed	13
walls decorated	26
ceilings decorated	27
woodwork etc. decorated	19
lighting improved	8
ventilation improved	4
new floor covering provided	8

cont'd.

(e) Food Hygiene (cont'd.)

Equipment

Number of premises where new equipment provided	5
equipment renovated	2
new counter tops installed	5
new shop fronts provided	3
refrigerated display cabinets provided	6
<u>Food Hygiene</u> food storage improved	5
suitable sterilising agents provided	1
first aid boxes provided	11
Number of rooms where walls and floors etc. cleansed	4

(f) Kitchen Utensils - Bacteriological Swabs

During 1969 forty-two visits were made to food-preparing premises and sixty-nine swabs of kitchen utensils were taken for bacteriological examination.

Each swab is cultivated for two different times and temperatures, and bacterial counts made. No official standard is laid down but a utensil is regarded as satisfactory if the average of both counts is not more than 100 organisms per utensil and faecal coliform is absent. Forty-six samples passed the unofficial standard and twenty-three failed.

Utensil-cleaning techniques are constantly under supervision.

(g) Food and Drugs Sampling

Mr. Nisbet, Chief Weights and Measures Inspector, Herts County Council has kindly provided me with a list of samples taken by his department in the urban district during 1969.

No. of Samples Taken	Sample
2	Full fat soft cheese.
1	Parmesan cheese.
2	Emmental cheese.
2	Cheese spreads.
1	Real dairy cream.
1	Egg Noodles.
1	Margarine
1	Minced beef with onion and gravy.
1	Chopped chicken in jelly.
1	English minced steak.
1	English minced beef.
cont'd...	
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(g) Food and Drugs Sampling

No. of Samples Taken	Sample
1	Ham and beef paste.
1	Irish stew.
1	Mince.
1	Steak mince.
2	Pork sausages.
1	Pork chipalatas.
1	Garlic sausage.
1	smoked pork pate.
1	Saveloy.
1	Faggot.
1	Mashed potato mix.
1	New potatoes.
1	Choice peeled plum tomatoes.
1	Steak and kidney pudding.
1	Mixed pickles.
1	Piccalilli.
1	Orange juice.
2	Lemon juice.
1	Ribena.
1	Rosehip Syrup
1	Fruit salad in heavy syrup.
1	Fruit cocktail.
1	Fruit cocktail in heavy syrup.
2	Fruit salad in syrup.
2	Fancy Fruit Salad
1	Mandarin oranges
1	Stewed apples.
1	Fish cakes
1	Herring fillets in beer sauce.
1	Cocktail shrimps in brine.
1	'A' grade crab meat.
1	Croquettes
1	Limeade lemon drink.
1	Coconut ice.
1	Instant pure onion powder.
1	Cream of tomato soup.
1	Low fat Yogurt - apricot.
69	Milk.
17	Milk C.I. (1 5% added water 1 8% deficient in fat 1 9% deficient in fat and 6% added water. 1 4% added water. 1 3% added water.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1969

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1961

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PART I OF THE ACT

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspection	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	7	3	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	210	52	-	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises)	10	10	-	-
TOTAL -	227	65	-	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences (S.7) :-					
(a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective.	2	2	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	1	1	-	-	-
TOTAL	5	5	-	-	-

PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK (SECTIONS 133 and 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133			Section 134	
	Number of outworkers in August list required by Section 133 (1)(c)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	Number of instances of work in un-wholesome premises	Notices served. Prosecutions
Clothing manufacture	18	-	-	-	-

